

RESOLUTION:

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The Problem:

Voting on nature is a citizen right. The current process co-sponsored by the hunting lobby (self-named the "Conservation Congress") and the Department of Natural Resources is flagrantly undemocratic and cumbersome.

Citizens have only a several hour time frame to appear in person to elect candidates and vote on important nature and wildlife issues. Elderly individuals and those who cannot attend are left out of the process.

Candidates do not debate the issues publicly and the issues are only those proposed by the hunting lobby. Further, issues are not published to the public at large before the vote.

Hunters run the vote and count the vote. Non-hunters are not allowed to place literature at the voting site, but hunters design and create all of the literature having to do with the vote and election.

Whereas non-hunters have not been a part of the voting process, and are unaware of the process or the issues,

And whereas the non-hunting environmentalist is reviled and made to feel unwelcome and uncomfortable,

Be it Resolved, the Conservation Congress at its annual meeting, held April 10, 2006, recommends that the Dept. of Natural Resources take action to correct this situation by creating a traditional structure of voting with non-partisan candidates running and counting the vote, and use a traditional format of walk-in secret ballot voting after extensive public debates between candidates on the issues so that the public is informed.

Submitted by: PAUL O'LEARY

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Signature: Paul O'Leary

County Vote: Yes X No: _____

24/141